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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

HALIM, SAHERA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2157

DATE MAILED: 01/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/738,292

Applicant(s)

THOMPSON ET AL.

Examiner

Sahera Halim

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 November 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in respond to communication filled on November 1, 2005.
2. Restriction and/or Election Requirement have been withdrawn.
3. Claims 1-34 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
5. Claims 19, 20, 24, and 28 recite the limitation "wherein the step of enabling" in line 1 of claims 19, 20, 24, and 28. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For examination purposes the claims are read as "wherein enabling...".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 1 – 19 and 24 – 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tang et al. (hereinafter Tang).

8. Regarding claim 1, Tan teaches a team member profile maintained by a persistent collaboration services suite (Col. 12, lines 9 – 39) for facilitating collaboration between members of a team (abstract; Tang teaches communication between the workers of a workgroup), the team member profile comprising communications information defining preferences of a respective team member for participating in each one of a plurality of different types of communications (Col. 8, lines 3 – 28, Tang teaches selection of communication mechanism is based on user performances), the profile of one team member being used to present communications information regarding the one team member to other members of the team, in order to provide the other members with a consistent team view that is representative of the status of the one team member (Col. 7, lines 29 – 55 and Col. 8, lines 3 – 28; Tang teaches the gallery mechanism indicates to the user which communication mechanisms are available, for example by graying out icons for unavailable mechanisms).

9. As to claim 2, Tang teaches a team member profile as claimed in claim 1, wherein the types of communications comprise: l-way messaging (error message, col. 14 lines 46-52), 2-way messaging voice, and multi-media (col. 13 lines 1-12, col. 14 lines 18).

10. As to claim 3, Tang teaches inherently a team member profile as claimed in claim 2, wherein I-way messaging comprises one or more of paging because Tang's operating environment uses video, audio, microphone, email, and the like in communications between team members (col. 13 lines 5-12, col. 14 lines 15-18, and figs. 3, 5-6, and 8), therefore, users can setup the email to page them whenever new messages or important news arrive to their personal devices such as: PDAS, cellular phones, pagers, or the like.

11. As to claim 4, Tang teaches a team member profile as claimed in claim 2, wherein 2-way messaging comprises instant messaging (error message, col. 14 lines 46-50, reflect status, col. 5 lines 59-61).

12. As to claim 5, Tang teaches a team member as claimed in claim 2, wherein multi-media communication comprises one or more of: document sharing, and application sharing (col. 3 lines 59-67).

13. Per claim 6, Tang teaches a team member profile as claimed in claim 1, wherein the communications information comprises, for each one of the plurality of different types of communications, a selected one of (col. 8, lines 3-28):
an indication that the respective team member prefers not to participate in the respective type of communications; and communications preference information

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identifying a preferred communications device selected by the respective team member for participating in the respective type of communications (col. 8, lines 3-28).

14. Regarding claim 7, Tang teaches a team member profile as claimed in claim 2, wherein the communications preference information comprises at least an address of the preferred communications device (col. 8, lines 3-28).

15. Per claim 8, Tang discloses a team member profile as claimed in claim 7, wherein the address comprises any one or more of: a public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) destination number (DN); a Private Branch Exchange (PBX) extension number; an internet protocol (IP) address; and an e-mail address (col. 8, lines 3-28).

16. Reference to claim 9, Tang discloses a team member profile as claimed in claim 2, wherein a plurality of team member profiles are instantiated in respect of the team member, each team member profile including respective different communications information defining the preferences of the respective team member for participating in each one of the plurality of different types of communications (col. 8, lines 3-28).

17. Reference to claim 10, Tang teaches a team member profile as claimed in claim 9, wherein each team member profile is associated with a respective one of a plurality of different roles of the team member (col. 12, lines 9 – 39 and col. 7, lines 29 - 61).

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18. Regarding claim 11, Tang teaches a team member profile as claimed in claim 10, wherein each one of the plurality of different roles is defined by the respective team member (col. 12, lines 9 – 39 and col. 7, lines 29 - 61).

19. Per claim 12, Tang teaches a team member profile as claimed in claim 11, wherein the plurality of different roles comprises a working role of the team member (col. 12, lines 9 – 39 and col. 7, lines 29 - 61).

20. Reference to claim 13, Tang teaches a team member profile as claimed in claim 10, wherein each team member profile is further associated with a respective one of a plurality of different environments of the team member (Col. 5, lines 13 – col. 6, line 62).

21. Per claim 14, Tang teaches a team member profile as claimed in claim 13, wherein each one of the plurality of different environments is defined by the respective team member (Col. 5, lines 13 – col. 6, line 62).

22. Regarding claim 15, Tang teaches a team member profile as claimed in claim 14, wherein the plurality of different environments comprises an office environment of the team member (Col. 5, lines 13 – col. 6, line 62).

23. Reference to claim 16, Tang teaches a team member profile as claimed in claim 9, wherein each one of the plurality of team member profiles is defined by the respective team member (Col. 5, lines 13 – col. 6, line 62).

24. Reference to claim 17, Tang teaches one of the plurality of team member profiles is selected by the team member as a current profile (col. 6, lines 11 – 46).

25. Reference to claim 18, Tang teaches a method for enabling a team member to select a respective team member profile, the team member profile being maintained by a persistent collaboration services suit for facilitating collaboration between members of a team, the method comprising (abstract): enabling the team member to interact with the persistent collaboration services suite to select communications information defining preferences of the team member for participating in each one of a plurality of different types of communications (Col. 8, lines 3 – 28, Tang teaches selection of communication mechanism is based on user performances); and

using the team member profile to provide the communications information selected by the team member to the other members of the team, in order to provide the other members with a consistent team view that is representative of the status of the one team member (Col. 7, lines 29 – 55 and Col. 8, lines 3 – 28; Tang teaches the gallery mechanism indicates to the user which communication mechanisms are available, for example by graying out icons for unavailable mechanisms).

1. Reference to claim 19, Tang teaches a method as claimed in claim 18, wherein enabling the team member to interact with the persistent collaboration services suit comprises the step of: providing an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) interface to the persistent virtual team environment; and enabling the team member to access the IVR using a voice communication device (col. 14, lines 15-58).
2. Regarding claim 24, Tang, teaches a method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the step of enabling the team member to interact with the persistent collaboration services suit comprises the steps of (summary): providing a graphical user interface (GUI) adapted to interact with the persistent collaboration services suit (col. 14, lines 15 – 58)); and enabling the team member to access the graphical interface using a GUI-enabled communications device (See figs. 1A-B, 2 3, 7 and 8 and col. 3, lines 32 – col. 4, line 28)
3. Regarding claim 25, Tang discloses a method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the GUI is instantiated in the GUI-enabled communications device and adapted to interact with the collaboration services suite through a network (Figs. 10 –11).
4. Reference to claim 26, Tang teaches a method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the GUI is instantiated by a web page associated with the collaborations services suite and accessible by the GUI-enabled communications device through an IP network (Figs. 10 –11 and col. 11, lines 38- 40).

5. Regarding claim 27, Tang teaches a method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the GUI-enabled communications device comprises any one of: a PC; a wireless PDA, a Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) enabled communications devices (col. 11, line 4 – col. 22 and col. 13, line 1-12 and Figs. 1A-B, 8).

6. As to claim 28, Tang teaches a method as claimed in claim 24, wherein enabling the team member to interact with the persistent collaboration services suite further comprises the steps of: using the GUI to display information of one or more options concerning the communications information; receiving an input from the team member indicative of a team member selection; and selecting the communications information using the team member selections (col. 14, lines 14 – 58 and col.12 line 3 – col. 13, line 12).

7. Per claim 29, Tang teaches a method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the information of one or more options comprises information identifying each one of a plurality team member profile, each team member profile including respective different communications information (col. 5, lines 12 – col. 6, line 62).

8. Reference to claim 31, Tang discloses a method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the information of one or more options comprises information identifying an availability

of the team member for participating in each one of the plurality of different types of communications (col. 5, lines 12 – col. 6, line 62).

9. As to claim 32, Tang teaches a method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the step of selecting the communications information comprises, in respect of each one of the plurality of different types of communications, a step of using the input from the team member to select one of: and indication that the team member is prefers not to participate in the respective type of communications; and information identifying a preferred communications device selected by the team member for participating in the respective type of communications (col. 5, lines 12 – col. 6, line 62).

10. Regarding claim 33, Tang teaches a method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the information identifying a preferred communications device comprises at least an address of the preferred communications device (col. 8, lines 3 - 28).

11. As to claim 34, Tang discloses a team member profile as claimed in claim 33, wherein the address comprises any one or more of: a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) destination number (DN); a Private Branch Exchanged (PBX) extension number; an internet protocol (IP) address; and an e-mail address ((col. 8, lines 3 - 28).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

26. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

27. Claims 20 – 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tang as applied to claim 1-19 and 24-34 above, and further in view of Parsons et al, US Pub. No. 2002/0085701 (hereinafter Parsons).

12. Regarding claim 20, Tang does not explicitly teach wherein enabling the team member interact with the persistent collaboration services suite further comprises the steps of: playing an announcement including information of more options concerning communications information; receiving one more dialed digits dialed by team member in response to the announcement; and selecting the communications information using the received dialed digits.

However, Parsons teaches wherein enabling the team member interact with the persistent collaboration services suite further comprises the steps of: playing an announcement including information of more options concerning communications information (pg. 8, 0087); receiving one more dialed digits dialed by team member in response to the announcement; and selecting the communications information using the received dialed digits (pg. 8, 0088 –0090). Having the teachings of Tang and Parsons, it

would have been obvious for a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Tang and Parsons in order to provide communications and messaging services to employees or workgroups through alternative and variably available devices (page1, 0007).

13. Reference to claim 21, Tang teaches wherein the information of one more options comprises information identifying each one plurality team member profiles, each team member profile including respective different communications information (col. 5, line 12 – col. 6, line 65).

14. As to claim 22, Tang teaches wherein the dialed digits dialed by the team member comprise an indication a preferred one of the plurality of the team member profiles (col. 5, line 12 – col. 6, line 65 and col. 8, lines 3 – 28).

15. As to claim 23, Tang teaches a method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the step of selecting communications preference information comprises a step of using the dialed digits dialed by team member select one plurality of team member profiles as a current profile (col. 5, line 12 – col. 6, line 65).

Conclusion

1. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sahera Halim whose telephone number is (571) 272-4003. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:30-5:00.

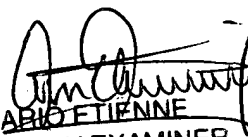
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sahera Halim
Patent Examiner
AU: 2157

January 17, 2006



ARIETTE
PRIMARY EXAMINER